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Urban District Council of Cheshunt



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1946

Urban District Council of Cheshunt

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Miss B. A. FITZSIMONS (*Chairman*)
Councillor F. C. BISHOP
Councillor L. G. G. BREEZE, LL.B.
Councillor E. A. JENNINGS
Councillor E. C. OAKDEN (Mrs.)
Councillor F. SAGGERS
Councillor L. C. MADSEN

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—PERSONNEL

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
BRIAN RUSSELL, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Resigned 31/3/46)

CHARLES R. HILLIS, M.B., B.CH.
(Appointed 1/4/46)

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

C. WILSON, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4)

Additional Sanitary Inspector

J. B. JACKSON, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3)
(Resigned 27/4/46)

W. G. DAVIES, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3)
(Appointed 24/6/46)

General

MRS. D. M. GARDNER, Clerk.

MISS P. M. MOORE, Shorthand-Typist

G. WARNER, Disinfecto^r and Mortuary
Attendant.

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my first report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the area for the year 1946.

The vital statistics, which are given in detail in the body of this report, show that a good health standard has been maintained in Cheshunt. In fact, it is pleasing to report that the birthrate is the highest since 1921, the figure for 1946 being 21.55 compared with 22.06 in 1921. At the same time the death rate at 9.2 per 1,000 of the population was the lowest since 1934. The Infant mortality rate, which is frequently looked upon as a reliable index of the well-being of a community, was 34 per 1,000 live births for Cheshunt compared with 43 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

There were mild epidemics of scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough during the period under review. Infectious diseases were otherwise at a relatively low level. The notifications of pneumonia though again numerous were less than last year. There was only one case of diphtheria notified during the year and the number of cases of TB was 28.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and to the Staff for their co-operation throughout the year, and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their sympathetic help.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES R. HILLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics

Area: The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

Population: 20,230 (Registrar General's estimate.)

		1945	1946
Number of inhabited houses on the rate books ...	...	5,473	5,757
Rateable Value ...	...	£123,092	£127,132
Sum represented by penny rate	...	£497	£494

VITAL STATISTICS :

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population		17.8	21.55
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...	...	24.02	9.17
Death rate per 1,000 of the population		10.8	9.29

Deaths from puerperal causes :

Deaths from puerperal and post- abortive sepsis ...	...	nil	nil
Deaths from other maternal causes ...	...	nil	1
Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...	...	nil	2.29

Death rates of infants under 1 year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births		36.03	34.72
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	35.2	33.89
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illigetimate live births ...	...	47.6	52.63

Causes of Deaths		M.	F.
All causes ...	...	96	92
Influenza ...	...	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		3	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	2	1

CAUSES OF DEATHS (cont.)				M.	F.
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	0
Cancer	...	...	...	11	15
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	1
Heart disease	...	...	...	15	26
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	3	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	16	3
Measles	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	6
Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	0
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	3	2
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	...	7	4
Suicide	...	...	...	2	0
Other violence	...	...	...	4	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	7	8
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	9	7
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	2	1

General Provision of Health Services

Laboratory Facilities.

Throat swabs are sent for examination to Enfield U.D.C. Public Health Department or to the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

Other specimens for examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

Ambulance.

The arrangements in connection with the ambulance service are the same as last year. The number of calls dealt with during the year was 892 as compared with 934 in 1945.

It has been the practice of the Council for a number of years to make a charge for the use of the ambulance for accident cases where a motor vehicle was involved. In July this was altered and the Council's ambulance is now free for all accident cases.

Nursing in the Home.

Details of the work done by the District Nurses are given in the following table:—

		Cases	Visits
Midwifery (without doctor)	...	77	1,186
Maternity (with doctor)	...	77	1,562
Ante-Natal	...	...	858
General Nursing	...	238	7,982
Casual	...	...	309
Infant Health :			
Babies under supervision	...	280	1,811 (average)
Toddlers under supervision	...	750	1,672 (average)
Tuberculosis	...	...	1,068
Boarded-out children	...	9	97
Parents	...	...	163
Attendances at Clinics :			
Tuberculosis	...	...	29
Dental Clinics	...	...	36
Ophthalmic Clinic	...	...	24
Massage Clinic	...	...	124
Infant Welfare Clinic	...	...	163
Ante-Natal Clinic	...	...	148

NURSING IN THE HOME (cont.)		Children	
Attendances at School:		Visits	Examined
Medical Inspections	...	37	931
Hygiene Inspections (head)	...	51	9,600
Miscellaneous	...	63	794

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross:

Child Welfare Clinic—Wednesday afternoon.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Wednesday morning.

Dental Clinics—Tuesday and Friday (2nd and 4th Fridays).

Ophthalmic Clinic—3rd Friday afternoon in the month.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—Monday afternoon.

B.R.C.S. Orthopædic and Massage Clinic—Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

The following statement gives an indication of the extensive work carried on at the Centre:

Number of Child Welfare Clinics	...	51
„ „ children on the books	...	440
„ „ attendances	...	2,386
„ „ children for dental treatment (under school age)	...	28
„ „ nursing mothers for dental treatment	...	14
„ „ children immunised against diphtheria	...	183
„ „ children referred for Ortho- pædic treatment	...	15
Average attendances	...	47

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. Ornstein for her great help in the immunisation of children under five.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Number of Clinics	...	...	...	51
" " expectant mothers	...	...	...	386
" " attendances	...	...	...	1,870
" " post-natal attendances	...	...	...	26
" " deaths	...	...	...	nil
" " average attendances	...	...	...	37

Day Nurseries.

The war-time day nurseries at Greenfield House, Waltham Cross, and College Road, Cheshunt, as from 1st April, 1946, became nursery schools under the control of the Hertfordshire County Council. The Chestnuts, 157, High Street, Waltham Cross, continues to function as a day nursery and provides accommodation for forty children from 0—2 years. There is a waiting list for admission.

Hospitals. No change.

Mortuary.

The mortuary is situated in a building at the Cheshunt Cemetery, Bury Green Road. During the year seven bodies were received into the mortuary and four post mortem examinations were made.

Scabies.

The same arrangements exist as during last year. During the year 61 cases were treated compared with 151 for 1945, and 192 for 1944.

Sanitary Circumstances of the area

Water.

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

No bacteriological or chemical examinations have been made by the Council but close bacteriological control is maintained by the Metropolitan Water Board.

All dwelling houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of twenty-one isolated cottages and out-lying farms where water is obtained from private sources.

A sample of water was submitted for bacteriological examination from one premises where the source of supply is the river Lea. The laboratory report showed that the water, which is filtered, was unsatisfactory. Representations were made to the owners who agreed to provide a supply of main water but the work had not been carried out at the end of the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 2,824 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 290 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	247
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SUMMARY (cont.)

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than housing defects	308
Number of premises other than houses inspected				442
Premises re-inspected (including housing)	...			723
Visits to works in progress (including housing)	...			56
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	1,048
				—
				2,824
				—

Included in the above table are the following classified visits:

Visits to shops and other food premises	...	...	255
,, bakehouses	...	...	23
,, slaughterhouses	...	...	1
,, fish fryers' premises	...	...	6
,, ice cream premises	...	...	42
,, cowsheds	...	...	23
,, dairies	...	...	50
,, schools	...	...	19
,, swimming bath	...	...	34
,, tents, vans and sheds	...	...	83
,, council house applicants	...	...	50
,, small-pox contacts	...	...	11
,, overcrowding and re-housing	...	...	36
Drains tested	...	...	7
Inspections of stables and piggeries	...	...	6
Visits under Petroleum Acts	...	...	6
,, Shops Acts	...	...	26
,, re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	...	...	387
,, re ambulance service	...	...	39

Inspection of Factories

Details of the Inspections made under the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the tables which follow :—

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	M/c linc No. (2)	Number on Register specions (3)	Number of In- specions (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Number of occu- piers prosecu- ted (6)	M/c linc No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	12	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies:						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	2	49	24	—	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ...	—	61	24	—	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:					M/c linc No.	M/c linc No.
	M/c linc No.	Found	Remc- died	Referred to H.M.	Inspec'r Insp'tor		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5			5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6			6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7			7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8			8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9			9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	10	2	2		10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	4	4		11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12				12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13	1			13
TOTAL	...	60	7	6	2	- - -	60

There are no factories in this area submitting lists of outworkers under Section 110 of the Act. Notifications were received of four places of employment of outworkers in this district which had been submitted to Metropolitan Borough Council's. Inspections were made of the premises in each case and they were found to be satisfactory.

Two notifications were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories under Section 9 of the Act with reference to defective sanitary accommodation at factories and the necessary action was taken in each case.

Complaints were received regarding a nuisance arising from the emission of dust at one factory where a soap substitute powder is being manufactured. Representations were made to the owners and they had agreed to put in hand at once alterations to the dust extraction plant. Owing to delays in the supply of new dust extraction units the work had not been completed at the end of the year.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices (written)	388
Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance ...	5
Statutory Notices under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide a covered dustbin	37
Statutory Notices under Section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	12
Statutory Notices under Section 83, Public Health Act, 1936, to cleanse verminous premises	1
Statutory Notices under Section 168, Housing Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	1

NOTICES SERVED (cont.)	
Statutory Notices under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, notice of time and place for making a Demolition Order on premises	... 3

Swimming Bath.

There are no public baths or pools in this area.

The Swimming pool of the Cheshunt Swimming Club, which is privately owned, is open to the public. It is supplied by running water from the River Lea and before entering the bath the water is filtered. Intermittent chlorination is carried out manually and tests for free chlorine are made by means of a Chlorotex indicator. Early in July, in co-operation with the club management and in collaboration with the County Medical Department, numerous trials with varying dosages of chlorine were made with frequent tests, in an endeavour to find an effective technique for the treatment of the water having regard to the varying factors of flow and bathing load. The difficulties were not entirely overcome and the Club had under consideration the possibility of installing effective apparatus for the mechanical dosage of the water.

During June and July four samples were taken, three for full chemical and bacteriological examination and one for bacteriological examination only. All the samples were reported upon as falling below a desirable standard.

Advice was given to the management committee regarding preventive measures which they might take with a view to combating the spread of the condition commonly known as "Athletes Foot" or "Ring worm of the Foot."

On the decision of the management committee the swimming bath was closed to the public as from the 1st August for cleansing repairs.

Schools.

In December the Council had under consideration the sanitary accommodation at the Waltham New Town School.

Early in 1943 representations were made to the School Managers and the Ministry of Health regarding the improvements required at this and other schools. The Ministry of Health stated that they had been in communication with the Board of Education who had informed them that the Board were unable to take any action in the matter at that time. In these circumstances new lavatory basins were installed and works of minor improvements and repair were carried out to the sanitary conveniences.

It is desirable that the existing insanitary trough closets should be replaced by modern wash down pedestal W.C's with flushing apparatus; that separate W.C. accommodation for the infant boys should be provided in a position apart from the girls W.C. The playground should be re-surfaced and the unpaved portion paved. The roof to the girls closet accommodation should be repaired. The School Managers were requested to have the necessary works carried out and the attention of the County Medical Officer of Health was drawn to the conditions.

Work was commenced on the abolition of the insanitary trough closets at the Holy Trinity School, Waltham Cross, and wash down pedestal W.C's with flushing apparatus were being installed. The existing tank rooms were being converted into W.C's for male and female staff.

Cinemas.

Following a complaint some investigations were made into the ventilation of the Regent Cinema, Waltham Cross. The ventilation of the cinema is by the

extraction method there being three outlet ventilators in the ceiling connecting to a common outlet duct in which an extraction fan is operated. Fresh air inlets are provided behind the central heating radiators on the external walls. There is no air conditioning plant installed. The owners stated that they had been endeavouring for some time to install certain improvements to the present system but it had been held up on account of the difficulty in obtaining labour and materials. Modifications which should improve existing conditions have been put in hand.

Caravans.

In April legal proceedings were instituted under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, against three occupiers of moveable dwellings at Masons Parade, Goffs Oak, and the owner of the land. The owner was fined two pounds and the case against the occupiers was adjourned for fourteen days during which time they left the district and the summonses were subsequently withdrawn.

An application under the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935, for consent to the use of land at Goffs Oak House for occupation by caravans was refused.

The Britannia Field, Waltham Cross, which is used from time to time for the purposes of a fair, was occupied for many weeks by transport vehicles and moveable dwellings belonging to travelling showmen and at the same time by three caravans and a tent in contravention of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. The Showmen's Guild was notified of the circumstances of the occupation by members of the Guild and legal proceedings were authorised in respect of the four moveable dwellings. The site was not cleared by the end of the year.

The Council had under consideration the conditions arising from the occupation of the land known as The Willows, Waltham Cross, by movable dwellings. This site adjoins the small River Lea and comprises approximately three acres of low lying, sparsely wooded land which has been in occupation by moveable dwellings for many years. Legal proceedings in this case were not concluded during the period under review.

Short period camping for pleasure occurs on Cheshunt Marsh but there appears to be no letting of land for occupation by moveable dwellings in contravention of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. The Council had under consideration the renewal of the Bye-Laws with respect to Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings which cease to have effect from the 1st December, 1944. The Ministry of Health expressed the opinion, however, that such Bye-Laws should not be made now unless the Council are fully satisfied that they are essential.

Infestation.

The steps taken to combat infestation include steam disinfection of bedding and clothing and the use of contact insecticides and fumigation for houses and premises.

Hand sprayers and contact insecticides in small tins are available from the Public Health Department for purchase by householders for follow-up treatment, or for use where infestation is slight.

To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses an inspection is made before the tenant moves.

Three houses were disinfested for bugs during the year and in one of the these cases statutory action under Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was necessary to get the work carried out.

Refuse Collection.

A fortnightly collection of house refuse was generally maintained during the year but shortage of labour and transport continues to be the main difficulty in providing an adequate weekly collection service.

Two new vehicles were ordered for delivery in 1947.

Kitchen waste is collected from communal street bins by a local pig keeper under contract. Trouble has been experienced over a long period from these communal street bins being overturned and the lids and contents being scattered. The experiment of securing the bins with an iron stake was made on some sites and this was satisfactory but fixed stakes cannot be used in all positions. The Council therefore provided bin stands with concrete bases. One hundred of these bin stands are now in use and they have satisfactorily solved the problem of the overturned kitchen waste bin. The stands were manufactured locally at a cost of 9s. 9d. each.

A waste paper display unit loaned by the Board of Trade was exhibited locally during the period 12th—31st December and during the same period waste paper publicity slides loaned by Thames Board Mills were exhibited at a local cinema.

An experimental distribution of sand bags for the collection of waste paper was made in a selected area and after observation for two months it appeared that there was no appreciable increase in the total yield of waste paper from the area.

Details of salvage sales during the year together with the figures for 1945 for the purpose of comparison were as follows:—

		1945	(to 31st December)	1946	
		Weight T. Cwts.	Value £ s. d.	Weight T. Cwts.	Value £ s. d.
Paper	...	91 0	540 7 7	103 17½	697 5 2
Pig Food	...	156 0	156 0 0	156 0	156 0 0
Light Metal	...	1	12 0	—	—
Tins	...	—	—	2	15 0
Rags	...	2 1½	21 2 6	1 17½	18 15 0
Bottles and Jars		2 10	19 1 3	9 13	87 5 1
Bones	...	8	2 1 1	7½	2 0 0
Cullet	...	—	—	2 18	4 7 0
Boots	...	16	4 16 0	—	—
String	...	1 10½	4 10 9	—	—
Batteries	...	13 15	6 17 6	—	—
Broken Sleepers		6	1 5 0	11	2 10 0
<hr/>					
TOTALS		268 7½	756 13 8	275 6½	968 17 3
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The costs of collection and disposal for the year ended March, 1946, together with the figures for 1945 are as follows:—

	1945	1946
	(per 1,000 of the population)	
Collection	... £ 153	£ 169
Disposal	... £ 48	£ 34

Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Sixty-four complaints of minor infestations were received and all were investigated and dealt with by the Pests Officer of the County Council, which is the Authority responsible for the enforcement of the Act.

The Council's refuse tip is systematically baited by the County Council staff under contract.

Housing

The shortages of labour and materials in the building industry and the need to concentrate on the building of new houses continues to result in large numbers of existing dwellings being allowed to fall into an advanced state of disrepair. These shortages inevitably mean delay and it is, in some cases, a matter of considerable difficulty to get essential repair work carried out.

A demolition order was made in respect of 65, College Road, Cheshunt, where conditions were so dangerous as to render this action essential.

Legal proceedings under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were instituted against the owner of 33, Harold Road, Waltham Cross, for failure to comply with a statutory notice to carry out works. The nuisance was abated between the date of making the complaint and the date of the hearing and the defendant was ordered to pay £3 costs.

Legal proceedings under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were also taken against the owner of 21, Alexandra Road, Waltham Cross, for failure to comply with a statutory notice to carry out works. The necessary repairs were carried out before the hearing and in view of the circumstances in this case the summons was withdrawn.

Housing Statistics.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	247
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2. (b) Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1
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REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	68
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—				
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil			

Inspection and Supervision of Food Milk Supply.

There are eighteen cow keepers on the register, two of whom produce Tuberculin Tested milk and five produce accredited milk under licence from the County Council. Twenty-three visits to cowsheds and fifty to dairies were made during the year.

There is one dairy in the district approved by the Ministry of Food for heat treatment of milk.

Fourteen samples of milk from this plant were submitted for laboratory examination during the year and thirteen satisfied the prescribed tests.

Thirty-one samples of milk from producers in the district were submitted by the County Council for bacteriological examination and six of these were reported upon as unsatisfactory.

Five samples from producers were also submitted by this Council and these were reported upon as satisfactory.

Follow up samples were taken and inspections were made at the premises of the producers from which unsatisfactory samples were obtained and advice was given with a view to obtaining an improvement in the quality of the milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936/38.

Licences were granted during the year as follows :

Tuberculin Tested—Retailing Licence	...	1
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	2
Pasteurised—Dealers Retailing Licence	...	2
Pasteurised—Supplementary Licence	...	2

Meat and other Foods.

There are no slaughter-houses in use in this district.

During the year two hundred and fifty-five visits were made to shops and premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale and the following foodstuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption :

Evaporated Milk	188 tins	Curd	...	1 jar
Condensed Milk	30 „	Eggs	...	177
Household Milk	3 „	Fish	...	168 lbs
Salmon	... 13 „	Haddock	...	79 „
Pilchards	... 10 „	Herrings	...	102 „
Herrings	... 3 „	Peas	...	70 „

M. & V. Ration	3 „	Macaroni	... 11 „
Peas	48 „	Lard ...	... 1½ „
Beans	34 „	Flour ...	... 3 „
Mixed Vegetables	2 „	Split Peas	... 2 „
Carrots	3 „	Blue Peas	... 1 „
Spaghetti	2 „	Shrimp salad ...	7 ozs
Soup	5 „	Margarine ...	2 lbs
Stewed Steak ...	16 „	Canary Tomatoes	23 „
Luncheon Meat	10 „	Dessert Powder	14 „
Tomatoes	5 „	Cocoa	4 „
Corned Beef ...	16 „	Barley	4 „
Corned Mutton	2 „	Pearl Barley ...	4½ „
Sausage meat	2 „	Gelatine	1 „
Prem	1 „	Megrines ...	42 „
Baked Beans ...	1 „	Harricot Beans	200 „
Peaches	2 „	Fish paste ...	1½ ozs
Steak and Kidney pudding ...	2 „	Cheese scrapings	10 lbs
Patte de Foie ...	2 „	Bacon	12½ „
Vienna Sausage	1 „	Shredded suet	16 „
Jam	3 „	Prunes	50 „
Golden Syrup ...	1 „	Camenbert Cheese	5 „
.		Bovine Liver ...	12 „

The total weight of food condemned was 1,334½ lbs. All condemned foodstuffs which can be used for animal feeding are disposed of for that purpose.

Bakehouses.

Twenty-three visits were made to the nine bakehouses in the district. The bakehouse at 192, High Street, Waltham Cross, was extended and improved and a new flour store was erected to replace the existing unsatisfactory store.

Works of improvement were also carried out at the bakehouse at 205, Turners Hill, Cheshunt and 37, King Edward Road, Waltham Cross.

Ice Cream

Following a number of outbreaks of illness considerable public attention was directed to the conditions under which ice cream is manufactured and sold, and in October the draft Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations were published. Except for ice cream made from complete cold mix powders, the Regulations will require all ice cream to be thoroughly treated by heat, to be cooled immediately after heating and to be kept frozen until sold.

Registration.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938 requires that certain food premises shall be registered by the Local Authority. Conditions relating to ventilation, cleanliness, washing facilities, etc., are prescribed for rooms where food intended for sale is prepared or stored and the Local Authority are empowered to cancel registrations where conditions are unsuitable.

There were, at the end of the year, four premises on the register at which ice cream was manufactured and seventeen at which it was being stored and sold.

Sampling.

There is no bacteriological or chemical standard for ice cream and the Ministry of Health do not appear to favour the adoption of a bacteriological standard, but suggest that such tests may be usefully employed as an indication of possibly faulty methods of production and handing.

Arrangements were made for samples to be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital and the pathologist suggested that samples should be graded experimentally in accordance with the following scheme:—

PRESUMPTIVE COLIFORM TEST—ICE CREAM.

0.1cc. 0.05cc. 0.01cc. 0.001cc.

+	+	+	+	Failed
+	+	+	—	Doubtful
+	+	—	—	Just passable
+	—	—	—	Passable
—	—	—	—	Satisfactory

Twenty samples were submitted for examination during the summer with the following results :--

Satisfactory	...	...	7
Just passable	...	...	1
Doubtful	...	...	4
Failed	...	...	8

Follow-up action, with a view to improving the methods of production and handling, was taken in all cases where the samples failed to reach the satisfactory standard.

Cafes, Refreshment Houses and Coffee Shops

Towards the end of the year a survey of the twenty-six cafes, refreshments houses and coffee shops in the district was made and it revealed that in many cases the standard of cleanliness observed by the occupiers was not satisfactory.

Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, provides a comprehensive code for rooms in which food intended for sale is prepared or stored and requires that cleanliness shall be observed by persons employed in the room both in regard to the room and all articles, apparatus and utensils therein and in regard to themselves and their clothing.

The attention of the occupiers concerned was drawn to the provisions of the Act and in most cases resulted in an improvement in the conditions being effected promptly.

At a number of the premises the provision of drainage, sanitary conveniences and other structural matters was found to fall short of a desirable standard.

The Council did not consider the details of this aspect of the question during 1946 and an analysis of the conditions found with details of the action taken is a matter which will fall for review when the report for the year 1947 is compiled.

Licensed Premises

During the latter part of the year an inspection was made of the forty-three licensed premises in the district.

The following is an analysis of the conditions found:—

Sanitary Conveniences.

Licensed houses with separate W.C. for males and females and satisfactory urinal accommodation ...	...	...	...	4
Licensed houses with separate closets for males and females but unsatisfactory urinal accommodation ...	...	...	...	4
Licensed houses with no closet accommodation				11
Licensed houses with no closet accommodation for females	...	...	...	5
Licensed houses with no closet accommodation for males ...	...	...	...	19

In many cases the existing sanitary accommodation is obsolete and insanitary and can only be brought up to a reasonable standard by the provision of new W.C.'s and urinals.

Facilities for the cleansing of drinking glasses.

Licensed houses where sinks are provided in servery with hot and cold water laid on	...	5
Licensed houses where sinks are provided but cold water only is laid on	...	26
Licensed houses where sinks are provided but hot water only is laid on	...	1
Licensed houses where sinks are provided but no water supply is laid on	...	3
Licensed houses where neither sinks nor hot water are available in servery	...	8

Lead Beer Pipes.

At eight licensed houses the beer pipes were found to be of lead.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to precautions against contamination applies to licensed premises, and Section 89 of the Public Health Act, 1936, provides that a Local Authority may, by notice, require the owner or occupier of any inn, public house, beer house, etc., to provide and maintain in a suitable position such numbers of sanitary conveniences for the use of persons frequenting the premises as may be reasonable. Sanitary conveniences means closets and urinals.

In view of the restrictions on building however, it was considered impracticable to get all the necessary works carried out at present, but the Council felt that it was desirable that they should define their policy as to

what provision of sanitary accommodation they would normally consider reasonable, and similarly with regard to the cleansing of drinking glasses, that the Council should lay down what facilities they would aim to secure at all licensed houses.

As a result it was decided that the owners should be informed that the Council's future policy will call for the provision of separate W.C. accommodation for both sexes, adequate urinal accommodation and provision of sinks with waste pipes discharging to a soil gully with hot and cold water laid on and the owners were invited to submit plans for approval so that the work may be proceeded with as soon as conditions permit.

At a number of premises maintenance work and temporary improvements were found to be required pending the provision of new accommodation and the owners were requested to put these matters in hand. Where lead beer pipes were in use it was requested that they should be replaced with more suitable material.

The reaction of the owners generally to the Council's views was a prompt expression of willingness to co-operate as soon as it is possible to carry out the necessary work, and in a number of cases plans have since been submitted showing proposed improvements which comply with the Council's requirements.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during the year :—

	Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	... 20	17	0
Measles	... 59	0	1
Whooping Cough	... 53	0	0
Pneumonia	... 41	0	12
Erysipelas	... 8	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	... 12	0	0
Mumps	... 1	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 1	0	0
Jaundice	... 8	0	0
Malaria	... 1	0	0
Dysentery	... 1	0	0
Diphtheria	... 1	1	0
Encephalitis	... 1	1	0

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of all children was carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic, Waltham Cross.

The number of immunisations carried out during the year together with the figures for 1945 are given in the following table :—

	Under 5 years 1946	Over 5 and under 15 1946	Under 5 years 1945	Over 5 and under 15 1945
No. of children who received full course	256	270	71	50
Percentage of child population who have recei- ved full course	49.5%	48.0%	77.7%	77.5%

Difficulty is experienced in completing the immunisation of children between the ages of 5 and 15

years, as many children who attend for the first injection do not attend on the second occasion to complete the course. There are, therefore many children who are incompletely protected and who are not included in the above table. It is of the utmost importance that every child completes a full course of immunisation.

Arrangements exist for Medical Practitioners to carry out immunisation privately free of charge to the patient. The number treated under this scheme during the year was 56.

Consent forms were distributed through the schools to the parents of all children who had not previously been immunised and the County Medical Officer of Health circularised parents of all school entrants emphasising the value of a "boosting dose." The Council co-operated in the National Publicity Campaign by using Ministry of Information and Local Authority combined advertisements in the local press and by arranging for the display of cinema slides and posters. Word of mouth publicity was also used and individual councillors, general practitioners, clergy, teachers, and members of local organisations were invited to co-operate in the campaign by recommending the immunisation of children whenever they had the opportunity of talking to parents.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 28. The death rate from tuberculosis is 0.44 per 1,000 of the population.

Age period	NEW CASES.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 5	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	1
15—25	4	4	—	—
25—35	5	5	—	1
35—45	2	2	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	12	—	2

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Small Pox.

A number of service men who had been in contact with cases of small pox arrived in the district during March and April.

The usual precautions were taken and no further developments occurred.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT.

AUG. 1947

Birth - rates, Civilian Death - rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946.

(*Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns*)

England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns(Resi- dent Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adm. County	Cheshunt
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Rates per 1,000 Civilian population :—

Live Births	... 19.1	22.2	21.3	21.5	21.55
Still Births	... 0.53	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.14

Deaths :—

All causes	... 11.5	12.7	11.7	12.7	9.2
Typhoid & Para-typhoid	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.2	0.02	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria	... 0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Influenza	... 0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	... 0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	... 0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.04

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	... 43	46	37	41	34
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	—

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

Notifications :—

Typhoid Fever	... 0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	... 0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	... 0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	—
Scarlet Fever	... 1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	0.98

Whooping Cough	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	2.61
Diphtheria ...	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.04
Erysipelas ...	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.39
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ...	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	2.91
Pneumonia ...	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	2.02

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

Notifications :—

Puerperal Fever	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62	2.29
Puer. Pyrexia ...				9.68	

Maternal Mortality :—

Puerperal

Infections ...	0.18	Not available
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